

REMARKS

Status of the Claims

Claims 1-7 are pending in this application, the independent claims being claims 1 and 5. By this Response, Applicant submits the following remarks.

Summary of Official Action

In the Official Action, claims 1 and 4-7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b), as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,195,209 (Kreitzer).

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection respectfully are requested in view of the following remarks.

Allowable Subject Matter

Initially, Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's indication that the application contains allowable subject matter, and that claims 2 and 3 are allowable over the prior art.

Claimed Invention

The present invention relates to a novel projector and method of correcting uneven color of a projector that forms a projected image corresponding to an image signal on a screen by a projection lens having a zoom function.

In one aspect, as recited in claim 1, the claimed invention relates to a projector for use with a screen. The projector comprises a projection lens having a zoom function that forms a projected image, corresponding to an image signal, on the screen, a zoom state detection section that detects a zoom state of the projection lens, and an uneven color correction section that performs uneven color correction *on the image signal* based on the zoom state detected by the zoom state detection section.

In a similar aspect, as recited in independent claim 5, the claimed invention relates to a method of correcting uneven color of a projector that forms a projected image

corresponding to an image signal on a screen by a projection lens having a zoom function.

The method comprises detecting a zoom state of the projection lens, and performing uneven color correction *on the image signal* in accordance with the detected zoom state of the projection lens.

In each of these aspects, the claimed invention relates to performing uneven color correction *on an image signal* (i.e., an electronic signal) in accordance with the detected zoom state of the projection lens, and forming on a screen a *projected image* (i.e., a light image) corresponding to the color-corrected *image signal*..

Prior Art Distinguished

The rejection of the claims over the cited art respectfully is traversed.

Applicant submits that the prior art fails to anticipate the claimed invention. Moreover, Applicant submits that there are differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art, such that the subject matter taken as a whole would not have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made.

The Kreitzer '209 patent relates to projection lenses having reduced lateral color for use with pixelized panels, and discloses a projection lens having a zoom function. However, Applicants submit that the Kreitzer '209 patent fails to disclose or suggest at least the above-discussed features of the claimed invention. Specifically, Applicants submit that the Kreitzer '209 patent fails to disclose or suggest at least the above-discussed combination of features of a zoom state detection section that detects a zoom state of the projection lens, and an uneven color correction section that performs uneven color correction *on an image signal* based on the detected zoom state. Rather, the Kreitzer '209 patent merely discloses *a projection lens* including lens elements having *fixed* V-values and Q-values selected at the time of manufacturing the projection lens, so that the projection lens can simultaneously have (1) a high level of lateral color correction, (2) low distortion, (3) a large field of view, (4) a

telecentric entrance pupil and (5) a relatively long back focal length. Specifically, the Kreitzer '209 patent discloses a projection lens that may be a zoom lens (column 2, lines 11-13), where the projection lens/lenses may be moved using conventional mechanisms during focus and zooming operations (column 9, lines 32-38); the Kreitzer '209 patent also teaches that the projection lens must have a very high level of correction of aberrations, including correction of chromatic aberrations and distortion (column 3, lines 11-13). However, the Kreitzer '209 patent teaches a method of manufacturing projection lenses having fixed aberration correction characteristics, in which the correction characteristics are defined at the time of manufacturing the projection lens, e.g., with the pupil being located at a constant position relative to the pixelized panel for all lens focal lengths and conjugates (column 9, line 39-column 10, line 9). Nowhere does the Kreitzer '209 patent disclose or suggest correcting *an image signal* (i.e., an electronic signal) for uneven color correction, as disclosed in the present application and recited in claims 1 and 5. Rather, the Kreitzer '209 patent merely teaches manufacturing a projection lens that performs chromatic aberration and distortion correction on the *projected image* (i.e., the light image itself).

For the above reasons, Applicants submit claims 1 and 5 are allowable over the cited art.

Claims 2-4 and 7 depend from claims 1 and 5, respectively, and are believed allowable for the same reasons. Moreover, each of these dependent claims recites additional features in combination with the features of its respective base claim and is believed allowable in its own right. Individual consideration of the dependent claims respectfully is requested.

Entry of Response Under 37 C.F.R. 1.116

Entry of the present Request for Reconsideration is proper under 37 CFR §1.116 since the response: (a) places the application in condition for allowance (for the reasons discussed herein); (b) does not raise any new issue requiring further search and/or consideration (as the remarks merely amplify issues previously discussed throughout prosecution); (c) does not present any additional claims without canceling a corresponding number of finally rejected claims; and (d) places the application in better form for appeal, should an appeal be necessary. The remarks are necessary and were not earlier presented because they are made in response to arguments raised in the final rejection. Entry of the remarks is thus respectfully requested.

Request for Personal Interview

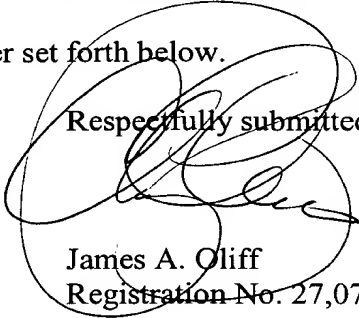
If the Examiner is not persuaded by the remarks set forth herein, Applicant's attorney respectfully requests that the Examiner contact Applicant's undersigned attorney to discuss these issues.

Conclusion

Applicant believes that the present Request for Reconsideration is responsive to each of the points raised by the Examiner in the Official Action, and submits that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration of the claims and passage to issue of the application at the Examiner's earliest convenience earnestly are solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,


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JAO:CPW

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